



HB 3555 -1: Community-Based Housing for Agricultural Workers

Everyone deserves a safe and decent place to call home. Farmworkers and their families are essential to the fabric of Oregon, not only by putting food on our tables but also by contributing to the vibrancy of our state. In Oregon, there are an estimated 174,000 migrant and seasonal farmworkers, including their families.¹ They contribute their critical skills to Oregon's \$5 billion agricultural production.²

Farmworkers earn an estimated \$29,630 in annual wages.³ These low wages are compounded by other challenges. Due to Oregon's critical housing shortage and cost of living crisis, along with cultural and linguistic barriers, many farmworkers and their families face housing instability or inadequate housing conditions, leading to poor and overcrowded living conditions. Farmworkers—who are often immigrants, Indigenous and/or Latinx, and low-income—need safe, affordable places to call home.

HB 3555-1 increases farmworker's ability to care for themselves and their families by making targeted investments towards the development and pre-development of community-based housing for farmworkers across our state, including in rural and urban environments.

The key components of HB 3555 -1 include:

- A \$20 million dollar investment towards the development/pre-development of community-based housing for farmworkers through a grant program administered by Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS).
- A 60-year affordability period.
- Prioritization of funding to nonprofit housing corporations that serve agricultural workers.
- Eligible construction types including multifamily dwellings, manufactured housing, prefabricated or modular housing, and housing developed using innovative construction types.
- Housing must be within 20 miles of significant agricultural employment.
- Housing must be near specific characteristics or amenities or include them as part of the housing model.

Contacts:

Martha Sonato – msonato@oregonlawcenter.org, 971-801-5031

Ira Cuello-Martinez – iracuello@pcun.org, 503-851-5774

¹ <https://www.oregon.gov/oha/HPA/HP-PCO/Documents/2018%20Updates%20to%20MSFW%20Enumeration%20Studies%20Report.pdf>

² <https://www.oregon.gov/oda/shared/Documents/Publications/Administration/BoardReport.pdf>

³ <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/farming-fishing-and-forestry/agricultural-workers.htm#tab-5>